

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



Published Semi-Monthly by the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service and the Maryland Department of Agriculture

AF-17-04

August 27, 2004

AG CASH RENTS

Maryland cropland cash rent increased \$0.70 per acre but was \$0.50 per acre less than 2001. U.S. cash rents paid to landlords for agricultural real estate were mixed during the 2003 crop year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2003 increased 2 percent from a year earlier, advancing to \$73.00 per acre, compared with a revised \$71.60 per acre for 2002. However, pasture cash rents dropped 2 percent, from \$9.20 per acre in 2002 to \$9.00 per acre in 2003. The increase in cropland rental rates was modest, reflecting producers' attitudes toward the combination of slightly reduced production levels of major U.S. crops in 2002 and higher, though still historically low, commodity prices. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions, which together account for nearly one half of cash rented cropland acreage, both increased 2 percent from 2002. Cropland cash rents increased \$2.00 per acre, to \$110.00, in the Corn Belt and \$1.00 per acre, to \$48.00, in the Northern Plains. Over all, cropland rental rates increased in 8 of the 10 regions, while rental rates in the Southeast region fell 2 percent to \$44.00 per acre. Rental rates in the Pacific region remained unchanged at \$180.00 per acre.

The major corn and soybean producing States of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases ranging from 1 to 2 percent for cropland cash rents. Of the 3 States, Illinois had the highest cash rent, at \$123.00 per acre, but experienced the

CONTENTS

Ag Cash Rents
Chickens & Eggs
Farm Labor
Vegetables & Melons

smallest rental increase from 2002 of \$1.00 per acre. Iowa cropland rents increased \$2.00 per acre, to \$122.00. Three of the four states in the Northern Plains region showed increases in cropland cash rents, led by South Dakota's \$3.00 per acre increase in non-irrigated cropland. Kansas cropland rents remained unchanged at \$39.00 per acre. Pasture cash rents reflected the drought-reduced forage production of pastures and range lands in major livestock-grazing States. Shifts in cash rented acreages from higher valued regions to lower valued regions also contributed to lower U.S. pasture cash rents, despite per acre increases in 5 of the 10 regions and no change in 2 of the remaining 5 regions. Pasture cash rents fell in the Delta, Mountain, and Pacific regions, and were unchanged in the Corn Belt and Appalachian regions. Wisconsin continued to lead the Nation with the highest pasture rent, at \$36.00 per acre, despite relatively weak milk prices. Sharp decreases in many areas of the Mountain region offset increases in parts of the Northern and Southern Plains.

Cropland Rented For Cash: Average Cash Rent Per Acre, Selected States 2000-2004

| State | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>Dollars</i> | | | | | |
| Delaware | 40.00 | 42.00 | 41.00 | 42.00 | 44.50 |
| Maryland | 54.20 | 55.50 | 55.50 | 55.50 | 59.00 |
| New Jersey | 51.00 | 47.00 | 47.00 | 47.00 | 47.50 |
| New York | 32.00 | 33.00 | 35.00 | 37.00 | 40.00 |
| Pennsylvania | 40.00 | 42.00 | 40.00 | 41.00 | 43.00 |
| Virginia | 36.50 | 36.50 | 36.00 | 36.50 | 39.00 |
| West Virginia | 26.00 | 26.00 | 27.00 | 28.00 | 30.00 |

¹Revised

CHICKENS & EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 66 million eggs during July 2004, of which 64 million were table eggs and 2 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 69 percent. The average number of layers on hand during July 2004 was 3,079,000. On August 1, 2004, none of the layers in Maryland were being molted and 15.5 percent of all layers had been through a molt.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during July 2004 up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.45 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 56.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,207 eggs, down slightly from July 2003.

Egg type chicks hatched during July totaled 34.1 million, down 4 percent from July 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 31.1 million on August 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago.

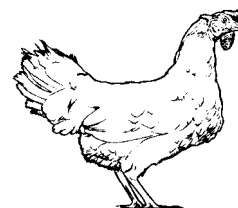
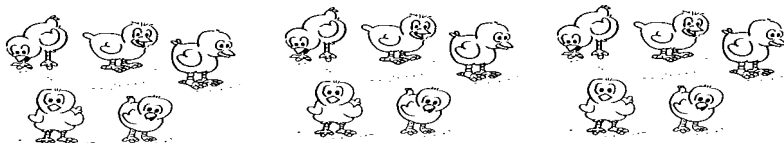
The July 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 807 million, was up 4 percent from July of the previous year. There were 663 million eggs in incubators on August 1, 2004, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.83 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during July 2004, down 3 percent from July 2003.

Quick Fact

Iowa was the leading egg producing state in 2002, producing 9.9 billion eggs. That is 825 million dozen, or enough eggs to make about 3 billion omelets.

Eggs and Layers: July 2003 and 2004

| Item | 2003 | 2004 | 2004/2003 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------|
| Eggs Produced During July | <i>Million</i> | | <i>Percent</i> |
| U.S. | 6,913 | 7,053 | 102 |
| Maryland | 57 | 66 | 116 |
| Layers, Average Number During July | <i>Thousand</i> | | |
| U.S. | 311,973 | 319,614 | 102 |
| Maryland | 2,715 | 3,079 | 113 |
| Eggs / 100 Layers During July | <i>Number</i> | | |
| U.S. | 2,099 | 2,144 | 102 |
| Maryland | 2,217 | 2,209 | 100 |



FARM LABOR

There were 1,293,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators up slightly from the previous year. Agricultural service employees increased from 320,000 last year to 340,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.10 per hour during the July 2004 reference week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers

received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 25 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.57 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 24 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down slightly from a year ago.

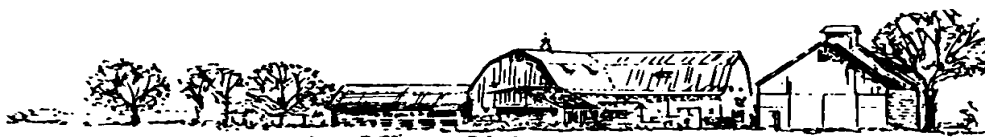
FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE RATES, UNITED STATES, JULY 11-17, 2004, WITH COMPARISON ¹

| FARM EMPLOYMENT | July 06-12, 2002 | April 11-17, 2003 | July 11-17, 2004 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Thousand</i> | | | |
| Hired Workers | 943 | *827 | 953 |
| 150 Days or More | 680 | *651 | 637 |
| 149 Days or Less | 263 | *176 | 316 |
| Agricultural Services | | | |
| Workers Working on Farms | 320 | *257 | 340 |
| Hired Farm & Service Workers | 1,263 | *1,084 | 1,293 |
| <i>Hours Per Week</i> | | | |
| Hours Worked Hired | 39.8 | *40.6 | 39.3 |
| <i>Dollars Per Hour</i> | | | |
| Wage Rates for | | | |
| All Hired Workers ^{2 3} | 8.88 | *9.23 | 9.10 |
| Type of Worker | | | |
| Field & Livestock Combined | 8.26 | *8.59 | 8.50 |
| Field | 8.17 | *8.47 | 8.42 |
| Livestock | 8.57 | 8.95 | 8.75 |

¹ Excludes AK.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.



MARYLAND COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES AND MELONS

| Commercial Vegetable and Melon Harvested Acres, by Region in Maryland, 2002-2003 | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| Crop | West of Chesapeake Bay | | Northern Eastern Shore | | Southern Eastern Shore | | State ¹ | |
| | 2002 ⁴ | 2003 | 2002 ⁴ | 2003 | 2002 ⁴ | 2003 | 2002 ⁴ | 2003 |
| Fresh Market Vegetables | <i>Acres</i> | | | | | | | |
| Beans, Lima | 30 | 20 | 70 | 60 | 20 | 20 | 120 | 100 |
| Beans, Snap | 530 | 530 | 180 | 180 | 690 | 690 | 1,400 | 1,400 |
| Cabbage | 160 | 130 | 20 | 20 | 70 | 50 | 250 | 200 |
| Cantaloups | 380 | 230 | 240 | 150 | 180 | 120 | 800 | 500 |
| Corn, Sweet | 2,520 | 2,120 | 1,560 | 1,310 | 920 | 770 | 5,000 | 4,200 |
| Cucumbers | 480 | 300 | 70 | 50 | 250 | 150 | 800 | 500 |
| Greens, Other | 380 | 450 | 40 | 40 | 80 | 90 | 500 | 580 |
| Kale | 150 | 140 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 200 | 180 |
| Peas, Green | 10 | 10 | 100 | 60 | 190 | 120 | 300 | 190 |
| Pumpkins | 1,330 | 1,170 | 200 | 170 | 170 | 160 | 1,700 | 1,500 |
| Squash | 460 | 460 | 90 | 90 | 50 | 50 | 600 | 600 |
| Strawberries | 280 | 210 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 30 | 400 | 300 |
| Tomatoes | 590 | 720 | 120 | 150 | 110 | 130 | 820 | 1,000 |
| Watermelons | 380 | 270 | 320 | 240 | 1,800 | 1,290 | 2,500 | 1,800 |
| Other Vegetables ² | 640 | 640 | 1,040 | 1,040 | 320 | 320 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Fresh Market Total | 8,320 | 7,400 | 4,150 | 3,640 | 4,920 | 4,010 | 17,390 | 15,050 |
| <i>Processing Vegetables³</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Processing Total | 3,100 | 3,230 | 8,400 | 8,620 | 6,500 | 6,650 | 18,000 | 18,500 |
| Total Vegetables | 11,420 | 10,630 | 12,550 | 12,260 | 11,420 | 10,660 | 35,390 | 33,550 |

¹ Total may not add due to rounding.

² Other Fresh Market Vegetables include: asparagus, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, eggplant, hot peppers, lettuce, okra, onions, sweet peppers, sweet peppers, Turnips and sweet potatoes.

³ Processing Vegetables include: carrots, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, hot peppers, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, squash, sweet corn, sweet peppers, and tomatoes.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT NORMAN BENNETT, STATE STATISTICIAN AT (410) 841- 5740
E:mail :nass-md@nass.usda.gov